(b) Statistics on the length of stay of job-seekers on the Live Register of the Employment Exchanges is not maintained.

(c) Employment is a thrust area of the Eighth Five Year Plan. Employment in any State, in general and so in Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu, depend on the pace and pattern of development in these States, for which mainly the State Governments are responsible. The Union Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in the creation of employment opportunities through Centrally sponsored/Central Sector special employment programmes. The more important on-going schemes among which are the Centrally sponsored schemes of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) and the Central Sector Scheme of Self-Employment for Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY). SEEUY encourages educated unemployed youth to take up self-employment ventures in industry, services and business through a mix of subsidy and bank loan. A self-Employment Scheme "Prime Miinster's Rozgar Yojana" (PMRY) launched in October 1993, aims at providing employment specifically to educated unemployed youth by enabling them to set up enterprises in manufacturing, services and business ventures.

SETTING UP NEW TERMINALS AND MECHANISING CARGO LANDING SYSTEM

2416. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering offers from the private sector for setting up new terminals and mechanising cargo landing system in the domestic ports :

(b) whether several measures have been taken up to streamline labour operations at the ports and 7,500 labourers, have been forced into voluntary retirement in this financial year alone ; and

(c) if so, what steps Government intend to take to contain the adverse impact on labourers of privatisation and mechanisation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

AVERAGE INCOME IN URBAN AND RURAL AREA

2417. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) what is the average earning in rural area as compared to urban area ;

(b) whether the gap between the earnings of the two areas is widening continuously; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government would propose/have proposed to bridge the gap between rural and urban areas ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) to (c) The average earning of regular employees in the rural and urban areas per day, as per the 32nd and 43rd round of National Sample Survey are given below :

	Rural Area	Urban Area	Percentage variation between rural and urban area
	Rs.	Rs.	
NSSO 32nd round (July 1977—June 1978)	9.26	13.75	48.5%
NSSO 43rd round (July 1987—June 1988)	18.91	40.79	41.1%